

Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT AIDE MEMOIRE GIVEN BRITISH EMBASSY
(LORD BRIDGES) ON DECEMBER 23:

QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT
TREATS THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE US-UK AIR SERVICES AGREE-
MENT WITH THE UTMOST SERIOUSNESS AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK
IN A COOPERATIVE AND PURPOSEFUL SPIRIT TOWARD AN AGREEMENT
WHICH WILL BE OF BENEFIT NOT ONLY TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES,
BUT TO THE FUTURE GROWTH AND PROSPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
AVIATION SYSTEM.

WITH THIS IN MIND, THE USG HAS MOST SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED
THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE US-UK AIR
SERVICES AGREEMENT SINCE THE TALKS IN LONDON IN EARLY
DECEMBER AND HAS COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE NEXT
MEETING SHOULD BE POSTPONED FROM JANUARY 17 TO FEBRUARY 28.
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ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE A FULL THIRTY CALENDAR DAYS BETWEEN
THE TERMINATION OF THE LAST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN
LONDON AND JANUARY 17, THE NUMBER OF ACTUAL WORK DAYS WILL
BE CONSIDERABLY LESS BECAUSE OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

HOLIDAYS.

IN ADDITION TO THIS ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTY, THERE IS A HIGHLY IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT. SEVERAL OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH THE UK DELEGATION SUBMITTED IN LONDON, PARTICULARLY UK/RENEGOTIATION/12, ADVANCE EITHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY SUCH EXTREME POSITIONS THAT THEY CANNOT FORM THE BASIS OF A NEGOTIATION. WHILE THE US DELEGATION WILL BE REPLYING MORE SPECIFICALLY TO UK DOCUMENT 12, THE U.S. WANTS TO MAKE CLEAR IMMEDIATELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT IT CANNOT ACCEPT AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION EITHER THE TRANSITIONAL CONCEPTS THAT DOCUMENT PROPOSES OR THE IMPLICATIONS IT LEAVES WITH REGARD TO A NEW AGREEMENT.

WITH THE TERMINATION OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT ON JUNE 22, 1977, CLEARLY IN MIND, THE U.S. INTENDS TO USE THE PERIOD UNTIL FEBRUARY 28 TO PROCEED WITH THE SYSTEMATIC DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIONS TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES DISCUSSED IN PRELIMINARY FASHION DURING THE DECEMBER TALKS. DURING THE INTERIM BEFORE THE FEBRUARY NEGOTIATING SESSION, THE U.S. EXPECTS TO PROVIDE THE UK WITH PAPERS DEALING WITH SOME OF THE MATTERS DISCUSSED IN DECEMBER AND WILL EXPECT TO RECEIVE SUCH PAPERS IN RETURN.

AS BOTH SIDES APPROACH THE CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES, EACH MUST ADVANCE PROPOSALS WHICH PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. THE U.S. DELEGATION FULLY INTENDS TO DO SO. IT TRUSTS THAT THE UK WILL USE THE ADDITIONAL TIME PROVIDED BY A POSTPONEMENT TO REASSESS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSITIONS IT HAS PUT FORWARD SO THAT THE NEGOTIATION HAS SOME PROSPECT OF BEING PRODUCTIVE. IF THIS IS NOT DONE, THERE WILL BE LITTLE CHANCE FOR PROGRESS EVEN AT A SESSION BEGINNING FEBRUARY 28. UNQUOTE.
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